(b) According to ICMR, various Surveys show that the prevalence of tobacco use among males above 15 years of age varied between 46% and 63% in urban areas and between 32% and 74% in rural areas. Among females, it varied between 2% and 16% in urban areas and between 20% and 50% in rural areas.

(c) and (d) According to an ICMR study on "Anti-Tobacco Community Education", the major reasons for initiations to smoking were poor influence advertisements.

Shortage of Pharmacists in CGHS (Homoeopathy) Dispensaries

2857. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the strength of Doctors/ Pharmacists/Store Keepers in the CGHS dispensaries/units of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy in Delhi/New Delhi with details of their duties given in the CGHS compendium;

(b) whether due to shortage of Leave Reserves and Reliever Pharmacists has resulted in closure of the CGHS Units of ISM&H, if so, the details;

(c) whether the provisions for Leave Reserves and Reliever Pharmacists is not there for CGHS units of ISM & H and also not included under duties of the pharmacist in CGHS compendium;

(d) what are the reasons for sending the Pharmacists for relieving duties in the Units from the actual sanctioned strength of dispensaries of ISM & H which increases the difficulties of beneficiaries of dispensaries;

(e) whether Government propose to increase the strength of Pharmacists in the Units of ISM & H by their upgradation to avoid the closure of units and difficulties faced by beneficiaries, if so, what were the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether any representation has been received by Government in this regard and the action taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) The information is given in the Statement enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Whenever any pharmacist proceeds on leave or remains absent, a reliever pharmacist is sent from a nearby dispensary for smooth functioning of the dispensary.

(e) There is no such proposal at present in view of reply given at (b) above.

(f) No, Sir.

Statement

The strength of Doctors/ Pharmacists/Store Keepers in the CGHS Dispensaries/Units of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy in Delhi/New Delhi is as under :—

	Doctors	Pharmacists/ Pharmacist-cum-Store Keepers
Ayurveda	40	34
Homoeopathy	30	21
Unani	9	7
Siddha	2	—

The duties of doctors under Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy as given in the CGHS Compendium mainly include providing comprehensive medical care, including preventive and curative, family welfare, Maternal & Child Health and health education to the beneficiaries. They are also authorised to issue chits for restricted medicines, undertake domiciliary visits and are responsible for maintaining cleanliness of the dispensary. They are also authorise to refer the cases to a Specialist according to the instructions already laid down.

The duties of the Pharmacists include correct dispensing of medicines as per prescriptions issued by the Medical Officers, safe custody of the stores received by him.

The duties of Pharmacist-cum-Store Keeper will include supervision of dispensary store for the safe storage protection from loss, damage or deterioration in the condition of stocks, etc. He is also responsible for issue of local purchase medicines and would assist in dispensing work whenever so desired by the CMO Incharge of the dispensary.

Eligibility of Homoeopathic Pharmacy Course for Homoeopathic Pharmacists

2858. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have reviewed the eligibility of Homoeopathic Pharmacy course